

no objection to the waivers provision in the bill, we did feel it would have been fair to protect the amendments of several Members who requested waivers for them.

We sought unsuccessfully to make several of those amendments in order.

We asked that the Brewster-Harman amendment, which seeks to ensure that any savings from the bill be applied directly to deficit reduction, and the Traficant Buy America sense-of-Congress resolution, receive the necessary waivers. Unfortunately, our requests were defeated on straight party-line votes.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we requested that the Chapman provision in the reported bill receive the same protection that was accorded all other unauthorized projects in the bill. We felt it was only fair that it be treated in the same way and not be singled out in this manner. Our effort in this respect was also unsuccessful.

Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about the clear shift in direction that is reflected in the funding priorities in this \$18.7 billion spending bill. While we understand the budget constraints the Appropriations Committee faced in developing this bill, there is some concern that the choice to cut energy research so drastically was in exchange for maintaining a status quo approach to funding other projects.

Many Members are especially concerned about the severe cut of 51 percent recommended by the committee in renewable energy research an development funding. These energy sources are essential if we are to reduce the trade deficit, and curb greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and other waste generation from energy use. We very much regret that our commitment to renewable energy supplies is apparently foundering.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, under this essentially open rule, Members will be able to offer amendments to cut spending further and to change the spending priorities, and, in fact we anticipate quite a number of amendments on a wide range of issues.

We commend the new chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS] and the ranking member, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] for their good work and their cooperation in bringing this bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker, to repeat, we support the rule. We urge our colleagues to approve it so that we may proceed to the consideration of the energy and water appropriation bill and amendments to it as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we have no requests for time on this side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no other requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1905) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 171 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1905.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1905) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, with Mr. OXLEY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS].

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MYERS of Indiana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, this appropriation bill that is for water and energy development in our country is a bill that touches every congressional district in the country, and it was a difficult job this year, but, through the leadership of our fine staff and the other Members, we were able to accomplish very close to what I would consider to be a miracle. I do want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL]. TOM and I came to Congress 29 years ago together, served on this committee for a great many years, he as chairman, and I was his ranking member, and he was always most courteous and considerate for the minority at that

time, and that relationship has continued. Nothing goes in the bill unless we both agree, and we just do not have that—I will say not bipartisan, non-partisan—everything that went into this bill was totally on the merits. Politics had nothing to do with it, and it was difficult this year. Many committees have experienced problems because we do have new staffs this year; we lost very experienced staff members last year; Hunter Spillan is gone, decided to retire this year, but Jim Ogsbury came in and filled those shoes with a few times that we had to take the racing stripes off, as they say in racing. But our staff, Jeanne Wilson, of course, great job; Bob, wherever Bob is here, and I guess he is here someplace, yes, Bob Schmidt—we had of course Judy, Judy Penry, came in to join us, and I do not see one of our staff members here, Lori Whipp. Lori is here someplace, but the great staff and our individual staffs who put the bill together this year—

But this year's bill is \$18,700,000,000. This is the smallest appropriation bill for energy and water development we have had for 6 years. The important thing is that we are \$1,600,000,000 below last year.

Now to put that in the vernacular of talk show hosts who often talk about ignoring baseline budgeting, this bill is \$1.6 billion below the baseline budget. I want to emphasize \$1.6 billion below the baseline budget, making real significant cuts. It is \$2 billion less than the President requested. But, breaking it down, we have \$3,200,000,000 for the Corps of Engineers. We have a few new start projects this year, but we have held those down.

We could not begin to respond to all the requests we had. But we did ignore the new proposal, the criteria for flood control that the administration recommended which was that to be eligible for flood control, historically the Corps of Engineers has provided flood control and preented floods as much as they could, but the administration proposed to be eligible a program, a project, would have to have more than 50 percent of the water falling in another State, a State different from where the flood treatment would be taken care of and reverse the local project sponsorship and payment from persently 75 percent Federal to 25 percent local to just the reverse. Under their proposal, 25 percent Federal, and 75 percent local, made a great many of these projects just impossible to fund.

In the second title, the Bureau of Reclamation, we have \$813 million. This bill is \$28 million less than last year, but it is \$24 million more than the President requested, including the Central Utah Project where we are trying to expedite and get the project completed as soon as possible to reduce the cost.

In the Department of Energy we have \$14,800,000,000. Surprisingly, \$10 billion of this is defense and defense-related